

Exhibit No. 9Date 1-23-09Bill No. SB 119

James Gibson
1250 34th Street Apt L104
Missoula, MT 59801
January 22, 2009

In Regards to SB119

To Ms. Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Gibson, and I would benefit from the Medicaid Buy In legislation. I currently use the Medicaid Program for expenses related to my disability. I have cerebral palsy and I use a walker to get around.

The reason that I would like this new program is because I am on low income and cannot afford health insurance. Even though I work part time, I am still not eligible for insurance through my job, and so Medicaid is the only health insurance that I can afford right now. Medicaid is important because it pays for my personal care attendants, which allows me to live and function in my day to day life. Without the help of caregivers, I would be unable to live in my own home, and have to depend on family members or live in an institution. I would not like this because it would cost the state more money than having me live in my own home.

If this legislation passed, I would be able to continue working and keep more of my money. This would allow me to reach a long term goal of owning my own home.

Sincerely,

James R. Gibson

Sheila James
565 Burton St.
Missoula, MT 59802
January 14, 2009

In Regards to SB119

To Whom it May Concern:

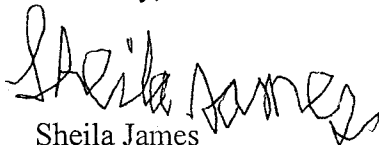
My name is Sheila James, I live in Missoula, MT. I am a Montana citizen whom is also a part of the disability community. I was born with Cerebral Palsy, and as a result I use a wheelchair and Personal Care in order to stay in my home and keep out of the nursing home I had to live in for ten years of my life. I would really like to be able to work more, but because I have to have PCAs (Personal Care Attendants), I am stopped from working too much because I would be unable to pay for the attendant care out of my pocket. This is because Medicaid is the only "insurance" that will cover PCA expenses, and in order to receive this important Medicaid benefit, I have to meet a certain finance guideline.

I want to work more because the little bit of work that I am able to do without losing my benefits helps other people, and also helps my self-esteem. Working more would take me out of my house, and give me something more to do. I could also pay more money into social security and other taxes so that I can be a helpful person in society, and so that I would feel like I was an important part of society.

I feel like I shouldn't be punished by losing my important health benefits because I want to work like everyone else does and is expected to do. It is also very important for me to live in my own home, and not return to the nursing home, which can only happen if I keep Medicaid.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Sheila James

Lynne Kelly
1250 34th St. #C-104
Missoula MT 59801
January 22, 2009

In Regards to SB119

To Ms. Chairwoman and the Members of the Committee:

My name is Lynne Kelly, and I am in favor of a Medicaid Buy in Program because it would benefit my life. I currently use Medicaid for medical expenses related to my asthma, Cerebral Palsy, and fibromyalgia.

I was working two part time jobs, but I had to quit one of them because making more money for my self, just meant having to spend down more for Medicaid. I would love to work more. I would also love to be able to keep more of the money that I earn. My bills are going up like everyone else's, for example the power bill and gas prices, but my income right now never goes up, no matter how much I work. It wouldn't make sense for me to pick up another job to help make ends meet, because whatever I make, they would take in order to keep my Medicaid.

I need my Medicaid to cover my wheelchair, which cost \$1900 when I bought it a year ago. I also need Medicaid to help cover my prescriptions and Dr. appointments. If I did not have Medicaid, my prescriptions alone would cost me over \$1000.

Most importantly, my personal care attendants are covered by Medicaid. I have 36.5 hours a week of personal care attendant time at \$11.20 an hour. I need these PCAs for assisted daily living. This Medicaid benefit is what keeps me out of a nursing home, and able to live an independent life and work as a peer advocate and child care provider (the second job I had to quit because it was costing me too much in the long run for Medicaid.) I would not be able to hold these jobs in a nursing facility environment, or participate in other every day independent living activities. I would not be able to afford this amount of personal care attendant time without my Medicaid benefit, since Medicare does not cover this expense.

Sincerely,

Lynne M. Kelly

January 23, 2009

Proponents of the Medicaid Buy-In

My name is Andrea Dahl. I am a long time resident of Missoula. I grew up in a household with two working parents who had strong values in both family and work. As an adult I worked hard raising my children. I also had to depend on SSI and Medicaid. When my youngest was in school I decided to look into employment. With part-time jobs I was able to continue receiving Medicaid benefits. I reached a point where my income was just dollars more than Medicaid would allow and so I was cut off of my benefits. I went through five years with no medical coverage. I had to have prescription medications and check-ups to maintain my disability so that I could work. And then there was a three week hospital stay following emergency surgery that left me unemployed. I was left with the hospital bill and no income to pay for it.

A Medicaid Buy-In program would have relieved me of bills I could not pay. My experience as an uninsured citizen was a frightening one and I don't want to see others go through a similar situation.

- A Buy- In would allow more people with disabilities to be able to work and pay taxes.
- A Buy-In would provide an affordable premium that private or group insurance does not have.
- A Buy-In will help more people to become less dependent on or even free of any public assistance programs such as food stamps and Section 8 housing assistance.
- A Buy-In will help reduce the number of consumers who rely on SSI or SSDI as their income source.
- A Buy-In will provide the basic healthcare needs that might otherwise keep the consumer out of the workforce.

Employment has many rewards for people with disabilities. They become a valuable part of the community. They find the many rewards of being a self-supporting citizen. They will be able to have pride in their accomplishments. I returned to school to study Social Work so that I can help others with disabilities reach these goals. A Medicaid Buy-In is what is needed so that more can reach their own goals.



Andrea Dahl
2221 W. Kent
Missoula, MT 59801
406-721-2021
adahl@summitilc.org

September 18th, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a legally blind citizen of the state of Montana. I am receiving SSDI & I am currently working with Vocational Rehabilitation to find employment that will allow me to earn enough income monthly so that I will be dropped from SSDI. It is my sincere hope that the 2009 Montana Legislation will support the Medicaid Buy-In program. Many employers are unable to offer health insurance as a benefit to its' employees, private health insurance premiums continue to get further & further out of reach of the average disabled Montanan's monthly income & no health insurance at all can be devastating to an individual's health. I feel the Medicaid Buy-In program is a very sensible solution to the health insurance crisis facing disabled Montanans who want to work but need to have access to affordable health insurance.

Thank you for your consideration to support the Medicaid Buy-In program.

Kind regards,
Heather Stone

Heather Stone

1500 McDonald Ave
Apt. 16-B
Missoula, MT 59801